

BATTLING BED BUGS WITH PROPER DISPOSAL OF MATTRESSES AND BOX SPRINGS

In the past year, bed bugs have become a national health issue. These unwelcome guests are showing up in homes, hotels, and even department stores across the country. They are latching on to backpacks, luggage, furniture, most especially mattresses and other bedding.

Like many other counties we are not immune to this problem. They are definitely here in our community, and unless we all do our part, they will continue to spread. Prevention is the key; we need to make sure we do our part when discarding mattresses and box springs.

Mattresses and box Springs are a favored hiding space for bed bugs. There are lots of crevices to hide in and the next meal is only a few inches away. Many have found that they have to throw the mattress out as there are just too many places that bed bugs can hide.



Cimicidae or **bed bugs** (sometimes **bedbugs**), are small [parasitic](#) insects. The most common type is *Cimex lectularius*. The term usually refers to species that prefer to feed on human blood. All insects in this family live by feeding exclusively on the blood of [warm-blooded](#) animals.

Because infestation of human habitats has been on the increase, bed bug bites and related conditions have been on the rise as well. In an effort to stop the spread of bed bugs, the Village of Hempstead enacted a law approved on February 8, 2011, under Chapter 74 of the Local Village code. The Department of Public Works will be implementing this new law as of June 1, 2011. Thus, residents have ample time to prepare if they have plans to discard any bedding in the future.

The local law in pertinent part provides: Chapter 74: (Health and Sanitation Garbage and Littering) Article 1-Section 74 – Collection by Village Container specifications, separation.

F. Collection of Bedding

(a) Definitions. For purposes of this section, “Bedding” shall mean any mattress or box spring which can be used by any human being for sleeping or reclining purposes.

(b) Any person disposing of bedding for department collection shall enclose such bedding within one bedbug proof bag. Such bag shall be constructed in such a manner and be of such size as to readily contain the bedding to be disposed of. Such bag must be securely sealed after the bedding is placed inside.

(c) Failure to enclose any bedding placed at the curbside or other designated areas for collection by the department within a plastic bag pursuant to this section shall be deemed a violation of this section.

The new law is very clear, if you are discarding any bedding, mattress or box spring, it must be in a bed bug proof encasement bag and completely sealed. These cases can be purchased at local department stores, home improvement stores, and some bedding store. We are asking that you please comply, if we all do our part, it will make a big difference in how we as a community deal with the growing problem.

Failure to comply with this new ordinance will result in a fine of up to \$2,000.00. For further information, you may contact the local sanitation department at 516-489-3400 ext 268.